

## 2025 ENERGY POLICY SERIES

Questions? [contact@cleanenergydistricts.org](mailto:contact@cleanenergydistricts.org)



## Integrated Resource Planning (IRP)

### What To Do

Integrated Resource Planning (covering power generation and transmission) and Integrated Distribution Planning (covering the distribution system) should be legislatively required of Iowa's investor-owned electric utilities (IOUs) Alliant and MidAmerican. This planning should be:

- Comprehensive of all distribution, generation, and transmission assets, as well as energy efficiency and demand reduction
- Fully transparent and participatory - conducted as a contested docket, which protects the rights of customers and stakeholders (who are captive customers of the monopoly utilities) to be full participants in the planning process
- Required on a three-year (or similar) cycle
- Structured to require competitive procurement of major investments

### Why Do It

- Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) and Integrated Distribution Planning (IDP) are best practices in utility regulation, required in most states, **to ensure that ratepayers only pay for what they need**, versus what company shareholders want.  
[CEDI IRP resource page](#) | [Ratepayers Should Only Pay for What They Need](#)  
[No Ratepayer Taxation Without Representation post](#)
- Traditional cost-of-service regulation authorizes high return on capital investments, leading to the perverse incentive that the more a utility spends, the more shareholders profit:
  - **Alliant's residential rates are higher** than all Iowa RECs, and their commercial rates are also some of the highest in the Midwest. This is a major drain on communities.
  - MidAmerican is investing billions in new wind (much of which they export from Iowa) to maximize shareholder returns, rather than solar-plus-storage, which is needed to serve Iowa customers and meet peak demand on Iowa's grid.
- The Iowa Legislature's mandated study, commissioned by the Iowa Utilities Commission and conducted by London Economics, **listed IRP as a top priority**.  
*London Economics [final report](#), and [Senate presentation](#) (mandated by the Iowa Legislature and commissioned by the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC))*
- Iowa's IOUs are granted **monopoly service territories** by the state; they have **no competition**, so effective regulation is the only way to achieve reasonable rates.  
*U.S. Department of Energy Berkeley Lab [slide show on distribution planning](#)*  
*Rocky Mountain Institute [guide to practical competitive procurement](#) principles*  
*U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab: [Explained: Fundamentals of Power Grid Reliability and Clean Electricity](#) (2024)*

*The Clean Energy Districts of Iowa enables locally led clean energy prosperity and climate stewardship through county level clean energy districts and state level policy advocacy. Clean Energy Districts create healthier, wealthier communities today and for future generations. More at [cleanenergydistricts.org](http://cleanenergydistricts.org).*